

CLAIMS

1. A lighting unit comprising:
 - a light source;
 - a light guiding plate disposed close to the light source and configured to guide light from the light source;
 - a reflecting sheet disposed along a rear surface of the light guiding plate; and
 - a reflector covering the light source and configured to reflect the light from the light source toward an incident end face of the light guiding plate,
 - the reflecting sheet having a light source side end portion protruding from the incident end face of the light guiding plate, and
 - the light source being provided with a protecting member attached to an outer periphery thereof to allow the light source to be protected, wherein
 - the light source side end portion of the reflecting sheet and the protecting member are located with a spacing between the light source side end portion and the protecting member for preventing contact between the light source side end portion of the reflecting sheet and the protecting member.
2. The lighting unit according to Claim 1, wherein the spacing for preventing contact between the light source side end portion of the reflecting sheet and the protecting member is not larger than five times as

large as a diameter of the light source.

3. The lighting unit according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the protecting member is provided with a concave portion on a portion of an outer periphery thereof to be opposed to the light source side end portion of the reflecting sheet.

4. A liquid crystal display device comprising:
a lighting unit according to any one of Claims 1 to 3; and
a liquid crystal panel disposed above the lighting unit.